Import of Wheat and Sugar

3287. SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH MANN: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have imported wheat last year and sugar this year;

(b) if so, what other items (edible) also Government propose to import this year, quantity-wise details; and

(c) whether Government will allow farmers to sell their produce to other countries so that the farmers are relieved of the dumping effect of such items?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) The Government imported about 4.76 lakh Metric Tonnes of wheat during 1993-94 against the contracts signed in 1992. Government has allowed duty free import of sugar under Open General Licence during this year. Under this scheme, private parties and some public sector undertakings, namely, the State Trading Corporation (STC) and the Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation (MMTC) are importing sugar. The quantity of sugar imported till 10.08.1994 is as under:—

Private Parties	6.99 lakh Metric Tonnes
STC & MMTC	1.83 lakh Metric Tonnes
	8.82 lakh Metric Tonnes

(b) In view of the comfortable stock position of foodgrains (wheat and rice) in the Central Pool, Government do not propose to import foodgrains this year. However, the import of pulses is allowed freely. Government has approved a quantity of 1.58 lakh Metric Tonnes of palmolein during the current year till date, for import for distribution through P.D.S.

(c) To encourage the farmers, the agricultural commodities including foodgrains are allowed to be exported on restrictive basis in a manner that does not compromise the country's food security.

Sugar Mills in Orissa

3288. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) the number of sugar mills set up in Orissa;

(b) whether Government have any proposal to set up some more sugar mills in that State;

(c) if so, whether one sugar mill is proposed to be set up near Anandpur in Keonjhar district of Orissa; and

(d) if so, the steps taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) There are 8 installed sugar mills in the State of Orissa (as on 30.6.1994).

(b) The Central Government does not set up sugar mills in any part of the country. It, however, grants letters of intent/industrial licenses in accordance with the prevailing licensing policy guidelines for setting up of new sugar mills. However, one letter of intent has been issued for the setting up of a new sugar mill in the State of Orissa at Banki, Distt. Cuttack during the sugar year 1993-94 (October-September) till yet.

(c) No Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Criteria for Allocation of Essential Commodities to States

3289. SHRI JANARDAN YADAV: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria for allocation of essential commodities to States under the Public Distribution System;

(b) the quantity of wheat, rice, sugar, edible oil, kerosene and palmolein demanded and supplied to such States during the last three financial years;

(c) whether requests have been made by the State Governments to enhance their quota from the year 1994-95; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Central Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) *Wheat and Rice:* The Allocations of wheat and rice which are supplemental in nature, are made to States/Union Territories on a month to month basis having regard to demand, seasonal availability, relative needs, offtake trend and other related factors.